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SRI S. RAMASWAMI NAIDU :—" Sir, with reference to this, industry, is it advisable to evolve labour-saving appliances, when human labour is now unemployed? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" Sir, labour saving may mean increased production and decrease in labour. These two must go together."

SRI M. HANUMANTHA RAO :—" Sir, in the matter of selecting students are the Government giving preference to weavers? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" Yes, Sir."

Pennar bridge, Nellore.

* 205 *Q.*—

MR. SPEAKER :—" The question and answer will be printed in the proceedings as the hon. Member Sri B. Ramakrishna Reddi is not in his seat."

SRI B. RAMAKRISHNA REDDI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state when it is proposed to complete the Pennar bridge at Nellore?

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—" The work is expected to be completed in March 1954."

Cholera in Malabar district.

* 206 *Q.*—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many deaths took place in Malabar on account of cholera recently; and

(*b*) what are the precautionary measures the Government have taken to check the cholera epidemic?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (*a*) There were 16 deaths from cholera in Malabar district from week ending 3rd January 1953 up to week ending 28th February 1953.

" (*b*) Control measures such as disinfection of infected houses, chlorination of water-sources and inoculation of contacts have been carried out. Three thousand nine hundred and ninety-three persons in all were inoculated against cholera during the period."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" May I know, Sir, whether Government received reports from the Health department in Malabar stating the reasons which led to the outbreak of cholera in Malabar? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Sir, Malabar is one of the districts which had the lowest incidence of cholera. I am surprised at the question of the hon. Member."

SRI K. MADHAVAN NAMBIAR :—" Sir, is it on account of starvation and distress conditions prevailing in Malabar that cholera has started? "

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THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" As I said, Sir, there were only sporadic cases. There was nothing like an epidemic in Malabar at all."

Pavement dwellers in Madras City.

* 207 *Q.*—SRI A. RATHINAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Co-operation be pleased to state what action the Government have taken to house the pavement and platform dwellers in the City of Madras?

THE HON. SRI D. SANJIVAYYA :—" The Government have no schemes to house the pavement and platform dwellers in the City of Madras. The responsibility of housing the pavement dwellers is primarily that of the Corporation of Madras which is doing as much as it can in this direction."

SRI C. V. K. RAO :—" Is it the intention of the Government to see that more pavement dwellers and road sleepers exist in the State? "

THE HON. SRI D. SANJIVAYYA :—" Not at all, Sir."

SRI V. SRI KRISHNA :—" Sir, in view of the fact that the Co-operative department is spending huge sums of money on building mansions for the well-to-do people, why should not Government direct the department to spend that money on constructing dwellings for the poor pavement dwellers? "

THE HON. SRI D. SANJIVAYYA :—" They are ready to do it, Sir. But unfortuntely these moneys that we are advancing for building purposes are given in the shape of loans and not as subsidies and grants."

SRI G. RAMA RAO :—" May I know, Sir, the approximate number of pavement dwellers in the Madras City? Are they Tamilians or Andhras? " (Laughter.)

THE HON. SRI D. SANJIVAYYA :—" I cannot give the exact number, Sir. Some time back I was told it was about 17,000. I do not have split up figures to show how many of these are Andhras and how many of them are Tamils." (Laughter.)

SRI S. RAMASWAMI NAIDU :—" Sir, will the Government impress upon the Corporation of Madras to give top priority to building houses for these poor people in the public interest and in the interest of the State? "

THE HON. SRI D. SANJIVAYYA :—" I may inform the hon. Member that the Corporation has been doing its best to help the poor people. For instance, they have built shelters called ' homes ' for the homeless. They have five of them in the City, one in Triplicane, the other in Wall-Tax Road, the third in Ibrahimjee Sahib street, the fourth in Elephant Gate Road and the fifth in Ritche's street near Napier Park."